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Re: Proposed Amendments to Claims  
To Place U.S. Appl. Ser. No. 10/686,692  
In Condition For Allowance

Claim 1. Canceled

2.(Currently Amended) The model of claim 1, wherein the components are formed of ceramic, clay, or synthetic material such as plastic.

3. (Currently Amended) The model of claim 2, wherein the components are formed of plastic and comprise male/female snap couplings at respective ends thereof to allow coupling, detaching and re-coupling of the various components with one another in the different positions.

4.(Currently Amended) The A model of claim 1 for teaching or illustrating surgical and/or medical technique, comprising  
a base component representing tissue or an organ, and  
several components structured and arranged to be couplable to and detachable from the  
base component and/or to one another, to illustrate different positions of the components with  
respect to one another representing different phases in the surgical and/or medical technique.

wherein the base component comprises a heart having containing ventricles and the other components are tube-shaped and represent veins or arteries.

5.(Currently Amended) The model of claim 2, wherein the base component and other components are color-coded to facilitate illustration or teaching of the surgical and/or medical technique.

6.(Currently Amended) The model of claim 4, wherein the base components and the

components representing the veins or arteries are color-coded to facilitate illustration or teaching of the surgical and/or medical technique.

7.(Original) The model of claim 4, wherein the base components and other components are structured and arranged to be couplable, detachable, and recouplable to each other in the various positions to illustrate various stages during cardiac surgery or a series of different cardiac surgeries for repair of the heart.

8.(Original) The model of claim 7, wherein the base component and other components are structured and arranged to illustrate various surgeries for repair of hypoplastic left heart syndrome.

9.(Currently Amended) The model of claim 1 4, comprising components structured and arranged to be removably coupled together by tongue-in-groove arrangement.

10.(Currently Amended) The A model of claim 1 for teaching or illustrating surgical and/or medical technique, comprising  
a base component representing tissue or an organ,  
several components structured and arranged to be couplable to and detachable from the  
base component and/or to one another, to illustrate different positions of the components with  
respect to one another representing different phases in the surgical and/or medical technique, and  
components structured and arranged to be removably coupled together by concentrically  
~~and slidably arranged components~~ sliding with respect to one another.

11.(Currently Amended) The model of claim 10, wherein an outer hollow one of said concentric components is provided with a lateral opening and an inner one of said concentric components is provided with a handle extending through said lateral opening of said outer concentric component to allow said inner component to be slid ~~with~~ within said outer

component.

12.(Currently Amended) The model of claim 4, comprising components structured and arranged to be removably coupled together by complementary-shaped male and female pin members.

13.(Currently Amended) The model of claim 12, wherein said pin members ~~comprising~~ comprise respective complementary indentations and protrusions to facilitate removable coupling in a snap-fitting manner.

14.(Currently Amended) ~~The A model of claim 1~~ for teaching or illustrating surgical and/or medical technique, comprising  
a base component representing tissue or an organ,  
several components structured and arranged to be couplable to and detachable from the  
base component and/or to one another, to illustrate different positions of the components with  
respect to one another representing different phases in the surgical and/or medical technique, and  
at least one tubular member structured and arranged to retain shape both before and after filleting.

15.(Currently Amended) ~~The A model of claim 1~~ for teaching or illustrating surgical and/or medical technique, comprising  
a base component representing tissue or an organ,  
several components strucutred and arranged to be couplable to and detachable from the  
base component and/or to one another, to illustrate different positions of the components with  
respect to one another representing different phases in the surgical and/or medical technique, and  
at least one substantially cylindrically-shaped member ~~have~~ having pegs protruding from opposite ends thereof and structured and arranged to removably seat in notches provided in other

coupling members to couple two such members together therethrough.

16.(Original) A method for teaching cardiac surgical technique comprising the steps of providing a heart model showing a base heart component containing atria and ventricles and tubular members interconnected with the base heart component and representing various arteries and veins, and

detaching and interconnecting the various tubular members with one another to illustrate various cardiac surgeries or stages in a surgery.

17.(Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the various components are color-coded.

18.(Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the various components are structured and arranged to be couplable to and detachable from one another by complementary-shaped locking members affixed thereto.

19.(Original) The method of claim 16 comprising several base heart components and illustrating surgical repair of hypoplastic left heart syndrome.

20. (Currently Amended) A series of models for teaching or illustrating surgical or medical technique of the heart, comprising

A a first model illustrating pre-operative defective condition of the heart;

a second model illustrating a first stage in surgical repair of the heart;

a third model illustrating a second stage in the surgical repair of the heart; and

a fourth model illustrating a third stage showing completion of the surgical technique.

21.(Original) The series of claim 20, wherein said four models illustrate the stages in surgical repair of hypoplastic left heart syndrome.